



# The Good News

A Newsletter for Friends and Members  
of Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ  
January 2019



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***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!***

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An Open and Affirming Congregation \* Member of Greater Kirkland Ecumenical Parish  
A Greening Congregation \* Affiliated with the Center for Progressive Christianity  
An Advocating Congregation of the Faith Action Network

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## From our Pastor:

Dear Church,

Welcome to 2019! I hope you had a joyous Christmas and that the hope and peace of the Christ-child's birth continue to guide you into the new year!

On January 6<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Epiphany in worship. Epiphany is the celebration of the church that bears witness to the revelation of Jesus' to the world as celebrated by the visit from the Magi. Epiphany marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas and this year Epiphany actually falls on a Sunday. To add to our worship, I invite you to bring your Magi (or Wise ones) from any nativity sets you have and they will be placed on a table at the front of the sanctuary during worship to help us imagine the Magi coming to bring gifts to Jesus.

On January 20<sup>th</sup> we will be worshipping at Lake Washington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in celebration of the Week of Christian Unity. **Their church address is 343 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Kirkland and worship will begin at 10am on that day.** As you may remember we hosted this service last January, and this year the Rev. Kara Markell and the Lake Washington Christian Church community are welcoming us to their building. Our worship will celebrate Christian Unity and the sermon will be brought by the Rev. Paul Benz, who is the Co-Director of the Faith Action Network. I hope you will plan to join in this celebration of partnership and faith!

I also want to remind all of you that immediately following our worship service on January 27<sup>th</sup> we will have our Annual Congregational Budget Meeting. The primary agenda item will be to pass our 2019 Annual Budget. As specified in our bylaws you will receive the budget in the mail in advance of the meeting. Attendance at this meeting is important so that we have enough people to fulfill our quorum requirement, but also because the approval of the budget is meant to be an act of faith and covenant by the congregation.

Finally, as we enter into a new year I would like to leave you with these benediction words written by Cheryl Lawrie:

*we leave today  
going into a future  
as yet unmapped*

*take faith with you as you go;  
into the parts of your life not yet traveled by love  
into the parts of the world unexplored by grace  
let compassion and hope be the roads that you follow  
today and always  
Amen.*

Blessings and peace,

*Ryan*



# Living the Season of Epiphany



At **Christmas**, we celebrate Jesus who came and made justice and peace real, giving us a sneak preview of how good a different world would be. We pray for a time when this becomes the whole story, when justice, peace, and righteousness – God’s reign – become the way of the world. Until this sneak preview becomes the whole story, God still needs people to act with hope, and during the **Season after the Epiphany** we read stories reminding us that God calls us to be these people.

## January 6th~ Epiphany Sunday ~~ *Consumed by the Fire of a Star*

Isaiah 60:1–6  
Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14  
Ephesians 3:1–12  
**Matthew 2:1–12**



### Something to think about, talk about or do

Like the magi, we may find our lives transformed by events beyond our imaginings, only to have them be altered again. It can be both wonderful and a little scary to find ourselves living in openness to change.

As you embark on a new year, invite the Spirit of God to guide you – even a little more than you may at first be comfortable with. Open yourself to the idea that sometimes God may need to take you down new and different paths.

## January 13th~ Remembering God’s Promises

Isaiah 43:1–7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14–17  
**Luke 3:15–17, 21–22**



### Something to think about, talk about or do

Everything needs water to live – humans, plants, animals. Of all the things that make up our bodies, we are more water than anything else. Just as we cannot imagine life without water, we cannot imagine life without God’s love, either.

Because Jesus brought God’s love to us in such a special way, we often speak of Jesus as being “living water.” On this Sunday, we recall the story of John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan River, and how God said to Jesus at the moment of baptism, “You are very special to me. I love you.”

We often write our names on the things we love most so that everyone will know they are ours. We try to take very special care of those things, and we worry if they get lost or damaged. Baptism is like that. It’s like God writing God’s name onto us.

## January 20th ~ *Witnessing God’s New Way in the World*

Isaiah 62:1–5  
Psalm 36:5–10  
1 Corinthians 12:1–11  
**John 2:1–11**



## **Something to think about, talk about or do**

This story is about celebrating life, and how God wants to help us do that. In those days it would have been a sign of very bad hospitality to run out of anything to serve one's guests, and so Jesus saved the host from certain shame by providing more wine. Not only that, Jesus provided the best! It's surprising, too, because the people in charge do not know from where the wine comes. The servants do. Jesus came to the rescue when it wasn't his responsibility, offering lavish hospitality that was unexpected and glorious.

God's love is like that. It's extravagant, abundant, always more than enough. It tastes better than we could ever hope for or expect. It's like having a wonderful, delicious, extravagant dessert at the end of a casual, simple meal. We can choose to question it or doubt it, or – just for once – we can simply indulge. Through the turning of the water into wine, Jesus is revealed. This miracle speaks of God bringing extravagance and abundance into everyday activities. God's glory is revealed, and the disciples believe in Jesus. The world – or at least the world of this wedding party – has been turned around. All because of Jesus.

## **January 27th ~ *Shaped by God's Word***

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

Psalms 19 1

Corinthians 12:12–31a

Luke 4:14–21

## **Something to think about, talk about or do**

What is the most important part of the body? That would depend on what one is wanting to do. If listening to music, the ear is important.



If going for a walk, the legs and feet are important. If scratching an itch, you might need your finger, your hand, your arm to reach to the place that itches, your elbow so your arm could bend, and your brain to know where the itch was. In other words, all parts of the body have a role at different times for different things.

Long ago, Paul wrote to the church in Corinth and reminded them that the church – the Body of Christ – is also made up of different parts, each of which has different talents, different skills, and different tasks to do. And all of which are just as important as each other. Singing in the choir, praying, folding worship bulletins, welcoming people to worship, preaching the sermon, teaching, speaking out about injustice, listening when someone is hurting... are all important. We all make up the church.

## **Congregational Meeting January 27th Annual Budget Meeting**



**Immediately following the 10:30 am  
worship service.**

**Exercise your voice as a member by  
attending and voting .**



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**Mid-Winter Youth Retreats  
for Jr. High and Sr. High  
Youth**

**Pilgrim Firs: January 18-20, 2019**

(7PM Friday to 1 PM Sunday)

The two age groups are meeting on the same weekend, but will have separate programming and housing arrangements

**Theme: "Spiritual Awakenings"**

This year's Mid-winter theme will focus on spiritual practices and awakening to the presence of mystery and God found within and around us - connection with who we are in creation and connecting with one another in community. We hope you are able to join us on this soulful and hopefully fun weekend adventure!

Registration fee for this Youth Retreat is \$140. Registration deadline is January 7, 2019.

Register at [www.ultracamp.com/Info/upcomingSessions.aspx](http://www.ultracamp.com/Info/upcomingSessions.aspx)

Camp Scholarship funds (50% of registration fee) are available for all KCC UCC youth attending a PNC Conference Mid-Winter Retreat.



**Men—Save the Date**

**Pacific Northwest Conference**

**United Church of Christ**

**27th**

**Annual Men's Retreat 2019**

**February 1-3, 2019**

**Pilgrim Firs Conference Center**

**An optional day of silent retreat  
will begin Thursday evening January  
31st.**

**Theme: VITALITY in our own lives  
and communities.**

**Registration is now open, cost is \$190.00  
for the silent day and weekend or  
\$140.00 for the weekend by itself.**



**Worship, Soup and Salad Dinner,  
Music and Community  
Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm**

**January 20th**

**Theme:**

**Martin Luther King Jr.**



# THANK YOU!!

Thanks to each of you for supporting our Tree of Angels Giving Tree this 29th consecutive year. With gifts and generous donations to the Common Cents Fund, we were able to



support 15 people from seven families supported by Attain Housing, formerly KITH.

Also, we were able to provide 3 boxes of food to the School Break Food Boxes program sponsored by

Nourishing Networks.

These food boxes are given to families in the elementary schools in the Lake Washington School District who are identified by teachers and counselors as needing extra help in providing food for their families over the school vacation breaks.

Common Cents funds were used to purchase the specific items on the shopping list.

A note of thanks from the Nourishing Network; Over 150 boxes of food was distributed to 120 families across all 9 schools in North



Kirkland. You helped the mom that used to be a gourmet chef, but is now dealing with Parkinsons. You helped the Juanita High School boy who came and picked up for himself and 5 siblings. You helped a family of 4 that are homeless and living with friends.

Your contributions mattered. We are proud to say that this collaboration and community work is alive and well here in Kirkland.

THANK YOU!

## January Mission Project



*It's January... the wind is fierce and piercing, the rain is falling in buckets and you... are living in a tent.*

**Winter Outerwear Drive**  
This Month we are collecting cold weather items that are needed by our friends at Camp Unity.



Please bring to church, adult sized gloves, hats, warm socks, coats, long underwear or sweats, other outerwear items, either new or gently used and hand warmers.

**In addition, hot beverage mixes are used constantly to stay warm.**

So bring donations of: coffee, tea, hot chocolate, hot cider mix, soups, creamer and sugar.

Our collection dates are:

**January 6, January 13,  
January 20 and/or  
January 27, 2019**



This is a small gathering of folks who come together to share in conversation about various faith topics, from the perspective of progressive Christian theology. Come and experience wonderful, thoughtful and at times, challenging discussions, while respecting each persons point of view.

Where: Home of Van & Marjie Kichline  
When: January 8, 2019  
Time: 7:00pm

Bring: Favorite bottle of wine or non-alcoholic beverage and an hors d'oeuvre to share.

**Don't keep it bottled up  
— Uncork your Faith!!**

### **Christian Education Committee**

This committee will meet on the third Tuesday in January.

Next meeting date is:  
Tuesday, January 22, 2019  
Helliwell Room at 7:00pm

**The Church Council** will hold a special budget meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019 Helliwell Room at 7:00pm

## **After Worship-**

1st Sunday of Month ~

Sunday, January 6: Soup Sunday

3 Homemade soups, bread,  
and beverage served  
in the Lounge following worship

2nd Sunday, January 13:

Adult Education Class will continue listening to Podcasts.

3rd Sunday, January 20:

KCC will be joining Lake Washington Christian Church, as a part of the Week for Christian Unity. We will worship in their church; the service will start at 10:00am. The Rev. Paul Benz of Faith Action Network will be preaching.

The Table — 5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall; music, worship, soup and salad dinner, community

4th Sunday, January 27:

Following worship, we will convene our Annual Congregational Budget meeting. Plan to attend and vote.



**Every vote counts!**

## **Interfaith Advocacy Day is on February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Interfaith Advocacy Day** is an opportunity for people of faith to speak with a coordinated voice to our state legislators about real issues of compassion and justice. This effort puts a human face behind some of the bills our legislators must vote upon. Your meeting with legislators and/or their staff on this day is putting your faith in action!

On Interfaith Advocacy Day, you will be able to:

- Join workshops that educate you about FAN's 2019 Legislative Agenda
- Learn how to most effectively advocate in today's legislature
- Meet with advocates from your legislative district to prepare for your legislative visits
- Meet with your legislator or their aid! Once you register, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district
- Hear from other legislators in an afternoon session
- Lunch will be provided

FAN's Legislative Priorities for 2019 include:

**Advocating for a Biennial Budget that Protects the Poor and Vulnerable**  
**Restoring Justice in our Criminal Justice System**  
**Funding Housing for All**  
**Caring for Creation**  
**Protecting Immigrant Families and Civil Rights**  
**Ensuring Healthcare and Mental Health for All**

Details about specific bills are available at: <http://fanwa.org/legislative-agenda/>

**REGISTRATION: \$15.00 if paid in advance, and \$20.00 if you pay at the door.**

Your registration fee helps to cover some of the cost of renting our meeting space, catering, and materials.

After you register, you will receive more information via e-mail as February 14 approaches, including details on the agenda, workshop topics, and the times of your legislative appointments.

*To help us in this important work, make sure you register before February 7.*

**CHECK-IN: Doors open at 8:00AM on February 14, and the program begins at 9:00AM.**

We'll end by 3:00PM after a debrief session in the Pritchard building on the Capitol campus.

## Kirkland Congregational Church Prayer List

In your time with God this week, please lift up the following people in prayer:

Sunni S  
Jerry R  
Ruth W  
Carole F

Nancy L  
Sarah J  
Barbara L

Jesse A  
Dorris K  
Judy H

Victims of abuse

Victims of crimes and violence

Residents of Camp Unity

Victims of natural disasters

Residents of Tent City4

Please contact the church office to add someone to the prayer list or to have a name removed; call 425.822.3811 or email [kccucc.office@gmail.com](mailto:kccucc.office@gmail.com).



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

